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Dear Senator Moynihan:

Thank you for your letter of April 1 reaffirming your interest in the case of Raul Wallenberg.

We have been unable to verify that any panel was created in the State Department in 1973 to review the fate of Raul Wallenberg. However, our records indicate that in October of that year Dr. Kissinger, then National Security Adviser, disapproved a letter to Mr. Wallenberg's mother responding favorably to her request that we approach the Soviet Union on the fate of her son. Our records do not indicate the context in which the decision was taken.

The Department of State shares your concern for this heroic man and has cooperated closely with the Swedish Government and with the Wallenberg family in their efforts to determine his fate. Secretary Vance met last July with Mrs. Nina Lagergren, Mr. Wallenberg's sister, and assured her of our desire to help. Moreover, other State Department officers have conferred with her, with other family members and with Swedish officials on several occasions and we have voluntarily supplied them with a compilation of documents from our files. (A set of these documents is enclosed. All have been declassified.) Also we assisted last year in arranging for the Swedes to interview five prominent Soviet dissidents who had been exchanged for two Soviet spies. Unfortunately, none of the five ~~xxx~~ prisoners could confirm or lend credence to the possibility that Wallenberg was still alive in a Soviet prison camp.

The Honorable  
Daniel P. Moynihan,  
United States Senate,  
Washington, D.C.

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Throughout, our primary concern has been to obtain Wallenberg's release if he is still alive or, if he is not, a fuller knowledge of the circumstances of his death. The Department raised this issue with the Soviet Embassy in July of 1979 and in the absence of a reply followed up in October and December. Finally, on February 29 of this year, the Soviets responded, casting no new light on the matter and simply reasserting their claim that Wallenberg had died in 1947. George Vest, Assistant Secretary for European Affairs, subsequently raised the matter again with the Soviet Charge, Vladilen Vasev. Mr. Vest stressed our dissatisfaction with the Soviet response and our hope that the Soviet Government will be more forthcoming.

You may be assured that our active concern in this tragic matter will continue, and that we will pursue all leads that may develop.

Sincerely,

*BW*

J. Brian Atwood  
Assistant Secretary for  
Congressional Relations

Enclosure:  
Wallenberg Documents.

*RT*  
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